

# **LINCOLN WATER COMMISSIONERS**

**May 13, 2015**

## **Regular Meeting**

The regular monthly meeting of the Lincoln Board of Water Commissioners was held at the Lincoln Water Commission office with Commissioners Frederick Conklin, Edward Fox, Eric Fox, Rene Lapierre and George Hadley present. Also present were Water Superintendent Romeo Mendes, Assistant to the Superintendent Lewis Prescott, Members of the Lincoln Board of Water Commissioners Memorial Trust, Bernard Cohen of Handy Pond Condo Association, Armand F Ferland of Handy Pond, LLC, Marc A. Gagnon of Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI, Jean Gagnon, Joseph Bastic, John Christo and Maureen Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Secretary George Hadley – Commission Chairman Frederick Conklin arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Motion to amend the order of business and move Unfinished Business items a) Water Commission Memorial Trust, b) HAS – Health Care Presentation – Blue Cross/Blue Shield, c) Handy Pond Condo Owners Association – Main Repair 2009 and d) Fred Ferland – Main Repair 2009 to the front of the meeting passed unanimously.  
(RL-Eric F)

## **WATER COMMISSION MEMORIAL TRUST**

Elaine DaRosa and Joan Morin appeared before the Board regarding the status of the Lincoln Board of Water Commissioners Memorial Trust. This Trust was established to help fund an overall activity of

the Lincoln Water Commission for the betterment of Lincoln Water Commission customers. The fund was due to expire on June 20, 2071. Trustees had hoped the Trust would accumulate up to \$75,000 by this date.

Trustee DaRosa advised the Board that due to the long term expiration date and the passing of original Trustees the current Trustees met and determined it would be unfair burden to pass onto family members and that the Lincoln Water Commission may no longer exist as it does today. The Trustees decided that they will pass the current amount in the Trust over to the Lincoln Water Commission at this time.

Trustee DaRosa turned over a check in the amount of \$3,016.69 to the Board and requested that it be used in a way that is beneficial to all users of the Lincoln Water Commission. All documents pertaining to the Trust have been turned over to the Lincoln Water Commission. Trustee DaRosa requested that she be notified when the Commission decides where the funds will be used.

The Board thanked Mrs. DaRosa for the Trustee's generosity.

## **HAS HEALTH CARE PRESENTATION**

Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative Marc A. Gagnon addressed the Board in regards to Health Savings Accounts (HSA's) and how they work.

HSA's are a high deductible health plan that is usually based on a calendar year. There are two parts to these plans – Medical and Bank.

Dollars in an HSA stay with the person and can build up over the

years. These monies are also dictated by IRS rules. The person controls the use and the onus is on the person on the plan for all medical care payments. There are no co-pays for this type of plan. Medical expenses come out of the savings account.

There are monthly fees per employee for the plan and there are multiple ways to set the plan up. There will be an initial savings to the employer to start this but employers will need to think long term to determine the actual savings.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Gagnon for his time and presentation.

#### **HANDY POND CONDO ASSOCIATION – 2009 MAIN REPAIR**

Mr. Bernard Cohen addressed the Board in regards to an outstanding lien due on the property located at 315 Old River Road. This is due to a water service break for this location. Repairs were made by the Lincoln Water Commission and costs for the repair were billed to the owner of record.

Mr. Cohen would like to see the issue resolved to everyone's benefit.

#### **HANDY POND, LLC– 2009 MAIN BREAK**

Armand F. Ferland addressed the Board regarding the main break for his condominium project. He is disputing the billing. Mr. Ferland does not believe he is responsible for the payment for the repairs and disputes where the service line begins.

Commissioners will continue to address this issue.

Motion to return to the regular order of business passed unanimously. (RL-GH)

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**There was no public comment at the May 13, 2015 regular meeting.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA –**

**Motion to approve the Consent agenda passed unanimously. (Eric F-GH)**

**The following items were listed on the consent agenda for the May 13, 2015 meeting:**

- **April 8, 2015 Regular meeting**
- **April Superintendent Report of Daily Activity**
- **April Monthly Abatements**
- **April Account Transaction Report**
- **News Articles –**

## **MINUTES**

- **April 8, 2015 Executive Session**

**Motion to accept the April 8, 2015 Executive Session minutes passed unanimously. (Eric F-GH)**

## **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

**The April 2015 operating and revenue report was presented to the Board for approval.**

**Motion to accept the expenditure and revenue report for the month of April 2015 passed unanimously. (Eric F-GH)**

**Motion to send the monthly financial status report for April 2015 to the Town Finance Director passed unanimously. (RL-Eric F)**

### **OUTSTANDING BALANCE REPORT**

**The outstanding balance report for the month of April 2015 was discussed by the Board and will be placed on file.**

**The outstanding balance due over 120 days for April was \$74,322.00. This amount was lower than the March 2015 report. Service discontinuations for non-payment letters are currently being issued.**

### **CAPITAL ACCOUNTS**

**The Capital Accounts report for April 2015 was received and reviewed by the Commission and will be placed on file.**

**Interest on investments has gone down for the month of April.**

**Motion to add Capital Accounts to the Consent Agenda passed unanimously. (Eric F – Ed F)**

### **MONTHLY INVOICES**

**Motion to remove Larry's Lincoln Auto from the list of payables and vote on separately passed unanimously. (GH-RL)**

**Commissioners Eric Fox and Edward Fox recused themselves from the vote.**

**Motion to pay Larry's Lincoln Auto in the amount of \$271.33 passed unanimously. (RL-GH)**

**Commissioners Edward Fox and Eric Fox recused themselves from the vote.**

**Motion to approve payment of the remaining April 2015 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$176,017.46 and Direct Payments in the amount of \$314,682.16 passed unanimously. (Eric F-Ed F)**

## **ABATEMENTS**

### **a. Regular Monthly Abatements**

**Motion to approve the April 2015 abatements in the total amount of \$42.21 passed with the consent agenda.**

- Interest Adjustment - \$4.05**
- Senior Abatements - \$38.16**

## **ACCOUNT TRANSACTION REPORT**

**Motion to accept the Transaction Report for April 2015 passed with the consent agenda.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **a. Amended Monthly Meeting Schedule**

### **b. RI Interlocal Trust – Group Life Insurance Rates**

### **c. RI Interlocal Trust – 2014 Annual Report**

### **d. Laborers' International Pension Fund – Annual Funding Notice – 2014 Plan Year**

**The Commission reviewed the correspondence and all will be placed on file.**

**Motion to add correspondence to the Consent Agenda passed unanimously. (Eric F- Ed F)**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Water Commission Memorial Trust – Elaine DaRosa**

**Moved and addressed at the front of the meeting**

### **b. HSA Health Care Presentation – Blue Cross/Blue Shield**

**Moved and addressed at the front of the meeting**

**c. Handy Pond Condo Owners Association – Main Repair 2009**

**Moved and addressed at the front of the meeting**

**d. Fred Ferland – Main Repair 2009**

**Moved and addressed at the front of the meeting**

**e. Martin Street Bridge – Emergency Interconnection Repair**

**Superintendent Mendes advised the Board that he is ready to take the design and do an RFP for a support and align project for the interconnection. He will request the Finance Director review and see if this project fits the criteria for a sole source.**

**Motion to move forward with contract addendum contingent upon the Finance Directors review and recommendation passed unanimously.  
(GH-Eric F)**

**f. Citizens Investment Portfolio – Resolution for Funds Transfer**

**Commissioners discussed the recommendation to transfer \$250,000.00 to a CD account to stay in line with the LWC investment policy.**

**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution authorizing the transfer of investment funds into an investment CD account passed unanimously. (GH-RL)**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Bittersweet Lane – Request for Relief**

**The Commission reviewed and discussed the request for relief of payment for water due to a broken water pipe during the winter months.**

**Motion to deny the request for relief passed unanimously. (Eric F-Ed F)**

**b. 2015/2016 Budget – First Draft**

Commissioners reviewed the 2015/2016 budget draft and set a meeting date of May 22, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. to review and discuss the details of the budget.

**c. Old River Road – 20” Transmission Line Repair**

Superintendent Mendes updated the Commission on the repairs and costs to the 20” transmission line on Old River Road. He has spoken with the State DOT and they will bid this job within their work. The Commission would pay estimated costs to the State up front. The funds will go into an escrow account. If the escrowed amount is lower than the project costs, the money will be refunded to the Commission. Twenty seven hydrants will also be replaced with Federal dollars during this project.

Motion to approve repairs to 20’ of transmission line and to transfer funds to the State DOT to be put in an escrow account for use in repair/replacement of the line passed unanimously. (RL-GH)

**d. Legislation – State Surcharges – Senate Bills S 0368 and S 0408**

Superintendent Mendes advised that these two bills have been sent to Committee. These bills propose that State surcharge fees be kept directly with the water suppliers they are collected from.

**e. Westwood Road Tank**

Superintendent Mendes discussed avenues to finance remediation/replacement of the Westwood Road Tank. Current projections are close to \$1 million for replacement. The tank is currently 10 feet to short and there are lead paint issues. To address these issues would also come close to \$1 million. The Superintendent



**recommends leasing another parcel of land from the Pawtucket Water Board to build a new tank. The old tank would then be decommissioned. He recommends that Commission set aside \$250,000 over the next four years to cover the cost of building a new tank verses borrowing monies for the project.**

#### **CLAIMS –**

**There were no claims presented at the May 13, 2015 meeting.**

#### **NEWS ARTICLES –**

**There were no News Articles for the May 13, 2015 meeting.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to seek to adjourn to Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) to discuss litigation regarding Handy Pond Condominium was deferred to the next meeting.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PUBLIC VOTE**

#### **ADJOURN**

**There being no further business before the board the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.**